

# A Few Pages From the Czar's 1917 Diary

This Extraordinary Document Is Possessed of a Wonderfully Naive Style

THE latest German papers to reach this country quote fully the extracts from the former Czar's diary as they were published in the "Izvestia" and "Pravda," the two official Bolshevik organs. The Czar's diaries consist of daily notes extending over a period of thirty-six years, beginning in 1882 and ending shortly before his assassination by the Bolsheviks in Ekaterinburg. The Bolshevik bureau of archives is printing the full text of the diaries, but the Russian papers have so far published only some of the most interesting notes written during the year 1917.

The following is a translation of the extracts printed in the "Izvestia" of Moscow. Before each entry we have noted in italics the outstanding news of that particular day:

Sunday, March 11, 1917

*Beginning of Russian revolution. First reports of riots in Petrograd due to food shortage and street demonstrations in Moscow.*

(In the Imperial Headquarters in Mohilev.) At 10 o'clock in the morning I went to mass. Then listened to sermon. Many people at breakfast, among them many foreigners. I wrote a letter to Alice (Czarina Alexandra Feodorovna). Took a ride along the Bobriss road to the chapel; went there for a walk. Weather clear and frosty. I did some reading after tea. Received Senator Srguloff after supper. Played domino in the evening.

Monday, March 12

*More rioting in Petrograd; General Chvaloff issues proclamation forbidding all assemblies in the street.*

There have been disorders in Petrograd during the last few days. Too bad that soldiers have taken part in it. It is a horrible feeling to be so far away and to receive merely brief, unfavorable reports. Listened to brief report. Walked along the road in the direction of Orsha. Sunny weather. After dinner determined to go to Tsarskoe-Selo. Took a train at 1 o'clock after midnight.

Tuesday, March 13

*Rioting in the Russian capital assumes character of revolt. Rebels defeat police and occupy important centres.*

I went to sleep at a quarter past 3, because I had a long interview with Ivanoff, whom I'm sending with troops to Petrograd in order to establish order there. Slept till 10 o'clock. Left Mohilev at 5 o'clock in the morning. Weather frosty and sunny. Rode entire day through Wlaska, Escheff; arrived in Lichoslav at 9 o'clock.

Wednesday, March 14

*Provisional Government organized in Petrograd; revolutionary government vested with the Executive Committee of the Duma and a newly formed Council of Ministers; Rodzianko, President of the Russian Duma, informs General Ivanoff Czar would have to abdicate.*

Returned at night from Wucher station, since the cities of Ljuban and Tossno have been occupied by the rebels. Rode through Waldas, Dno, Pskoff, where I remained overnight. Talked with Ruskly, He, Daniloff and Savitch ate dinner with me. Gatchina and Luga are occupied by rebels. Shame and disgrace! Cannot continue journey to Tsarskoe-Selo. My thoughts are all the time over there! How hard it must be for poor Alex to live through all these events alone! Oh, Lord, help us!

Thursday, March 15

*Czar abdicates on behalf of himself and the Imperial family, in favor of Grand Duke Alexei, in favor of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich.*

In the morning Ruskly came to see me and read to me his long telephone interview last night with Rodzianko. In his opinion the situation in Petrograd is such that it would be impossible to form a ministry, even from the Duma, as the Social Democratic party is fighting against it. My abdication is necessary. Ruskly has transmitted this conversation to headquarters, and Alexieff has transmitted it to the army commanders. At half past 1 I received replies from all of them. The general text of their replies was: In the name of the salvation of Russia and in order to keep the army at the front in peace, my abdication is necessary. I gave my approval. They sent from headquarters the draft of a manifesto of my abdication. In the evening Gutenkoff and Shulgin arrived from Petrograd. I had an interview with them and then handed the manifesto, which had been changed and which I had signed. At 1 o'clock at night I went to Pskoff, heavily weighed down by all that I have gone through. All around me treason, cowardice, deceit.

Friday, March 16

*Grand Duke Michael abdicates; Minister of Justice Kerensky announces plans for wide reforms based on universal suffrage and political amnesty.*

Slept long and hard. Awoke far from Dunaburg. Day was dry and sunny. Talked with my people about yesterday. Read much about Julius Caesar. Arrived in Mohilev at twenty minutes past 8. All the staff officers were at the station. I received Alexieff in my car. At half past 9 I went to my residence. Alexieff came with the last news from Rodzianko. It seems that Misha has resigned (Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich). His manifesto announces that elections to the Constituent Assembly will be held in six months. God knows who has made him sign such a hor-

officers and administration officials. At home I took leave of the Cossack escort and their officers. My heart almost broke. At 12 o'clock I went to mother, had breakfast with her and her retinue and remained there till half-past four. I took leave from her, Sander, Sergiev, Boris and Alex. They did not feel poor Nudloff go with me. At 4:45 I departed from Mohilev, accompanied by a large crowd of people who seemed deeply moved. Four members of the executive committee accompanied me to the railroad train. I went to Orsha and Vitobek. The weather is frosty and windy. It is very sad and painful.

Thursday, March 22

*Czar brought to Tsarskoe-Selo, where he is to be kept under guard.*

I fortunately arrived in Tsarskoe-Selo at half-past ten. But, O God! what a difference! In the street, around the palace, inside the park, there are guards everywhere; at the gate an unfriendly ensign on guard. I went upstairs, and found there my dear Alex and my dear children. She

looked fresh and healthy, but all the children were sleeping in the dark because they had measles. They all feel very well except Mary, who contracted measles only a short while ago. We had breakfast and dinner in the dining room together with Alexieff. I saw the good Benckendorff. Went for a walk with Wala Dalgouruki and worked in the garden with him for a little while. I am not permitted to go away far. After tea I unpacked my things. In the evening we looked for all the inhabitants of our wing of the palace and found them all together.

Friday, March 23

*Russian Central Committee and the parliamentary representatives vote in favor of republic.*

Slept well. In spite of the conditions in which we are living, we are glad to be all together.

In the morning I received Benckendorff. Then I went over my papers, arranged some and burned some others. I sat with the children till after half past two. Went

for a walk with Wala Dalgouruki, and was accompanied by the same ensigns; they were much more courteous to-day.

We worked in the snow. The weather was sunny. In the evening we were together.

Saturday, March 24

*Provisional Government announces Russia will continue war against Germany.*

In the morning I received Benckendorff, and learned from him that we would remain here for a long time. It is a very pleasant feeling to hear that. I am continuing my work of preparing and working over papers and letters. Anastasia has carache, which seems to influence the mood of the others. From three till half-past four I walked with Dalgouruki and worked in the garden. The weather was unpleasant, windy and cold. At a quarter to seven we went to the field chapel to pray. Alexei was able to take a bath.

The next note (comment by "Izvestia"), in which the Czar refers to his trip

"Oh, Lord! Help Us!" "All Around Me Treason, Cowardice, Deceit"

to England, deserves to be especially emphasized. The government of Prince Lvoff and Kerensky had promised him he would be able to go abroad. Among the papers of the Romanoffs there was found a letter from Prince Lvoff in which the Czar was assured he could reach the Murman coast. This letter will be published later. The diary continues:

Monday, March 26

A clear day after two hours of rain. I went for a walk in the morning. I arranged my books and things and began to put in order everything I am going to take along with me, if that will be necessary, when I go to England. After breakfast I went for a walk with Tatjana and Olga and worked a little in the garden. We spent the evening as usual.

Tuesday, March 27

*New restrictions imposed upon Romanoff family.*

We have begun the fasts, which, however, does not give us any joy this year. After the service (church) Kerensky came and told us we ought to limit our meetings; we cannot any longer be together with our children. I suppose he has made this demand in order to satisfy the Soviet of Workmen and Soldiers' Deputies. In order to avoid violence we had to comply with the request. I went for a walk with Tatjana. Olga is ill again. She has a neckache. At quarter to ten I went to my room. Tatjana remained with me till 10 o'clock. Then I read a little, drank tea and took a bath. Then I went to sleep.

Friday, April 7

*Russians preparing for drive on Western front.*

The weather is beautiful and warmer. I went out for a long walk in the morning. During the day I worked with Tatjana and Alex. The faces of the soldiers and their

careless positions made upon me a disgusting impression. I have read much. From a quarter past ten I was in my room.

Saturday, June 3

*Provisional Government plans deportation of Czar and family to England.*

After my morning tea Kerensky came, expected in an automobile from the city. He remained with me only a short time; he asked me to send to the investigation committee some papers or letters referring to domestic politics.

After my walk before breakfast I helped Korovitchenko look for those papers. He pursued the task during the day, assisted by Koblinkin.

While I was working in the garden Alex was playing on the island with his rifle. The guards, who were walking in the park, saw it and asked an officer to take it away from him. They brought it to the guard-house. Later it was sent, for some reason, to the city hall. Fine officers, who do not dare to contradict a private! We attended evening services. The evening was usual.

Friday, June 9

*Royalist plot discovered by Kerensky.*

It is three months since I returned from Mohilev. At that time we have been living here as prisoners. It is hard to be without any news of dear mamma. Everything else is indifferent to me. It is still hotter to-day—25 degrees in the shade, 35 in the sun. After the walk I studied geography with Alex in my new cabinet. Alex has not come out. We went for a walk before dinner.

Monday, July 2

*Russians resume offensive; inflict severe defeat on the Austro-German troops in Galicia.*

Relatively cool weather. Day passed as usual, but before dinner a very good message came to us: The offensive has begun on the southwestern front. In the direction of Zlotchoff, after strong artillery preparation, our troops stormed enemy positions and captured 170 officers and 10,000 men, six guns and twenty-four machine guns. Thank Thee, O Lord! God has given it to us in a good hour. I feel entirely different after this joyful news.

Monday, July 9

*Russians carry on victorious offensive.*

Splendid day. Our commander, Captain Kombinski, requested that in the presence of strangers we forego shaking hands with officers or exchanging words of greeting with the guards. I have offered to speak a few times, but they have not answered. Studied geography with Alex. Then we felled the big tree behind the hothouse. The guards themselves wanted to help us at the work. In the evening I read to the end the "Count of Monte Cristo."

Monday, July 18

*Premier Lvoff resigns; extremists and followers of Lenin revolt in Petrograd.*

Rain all morning, but it cleared at 2 o'clock. Day spent as usual. Disorders and shootings in Petrograd these days. A great number of sailors and soldiers came from Petrograd in order to move against the Provisional Government of Petrograd. Complete confusion; where are the people who could take control of the movement and put an end to the fighting and shedding of blood? The roots of the evil lie in Petrograd itself, not in all Russia.

Thursday, July 19

*Rebels suppressed by Cossack troops.*

Fortunately, the majority of the troops of Petrograd remain loyal and order has been restored in the streets. Splendid weather. Worked all day in the forest. Felled four trees. Began to read "Tartarin of Tarascon."

Saturday, July 21

*Kerensky becomes Premier and Minister of War and Navy.*

A beautiful, hot day. Spent the time partly with Tatjana and Mary. Worked yesterday as well as to-day the guards of the 1st and 4th regiments courteously refrained from patrolling during our walk in the garden. Changes have taken place in the government. Prince Lvoff has gone and Kerensky has become Premier, War Minister and Minister of Marine. He also retains the Ministry of Commerce. This man is decidedly in his place at the present moment; the greater power he has the better will he be.

Tuesday, July 24

*Provisional Government announces Czar's family to be transferred south because of royalist and extremist riots.*

Went for a walk with Alex in the morning. On my return I learned of Kerensky's arrival. In our interview he told me it would be necessary for us to move further south, because Tsarskoe-Selo is so close to the seat of all disorders. Olga's name day, therefore we went to church. After breakfast worked. Read the third part of Merezhkovsky's trilogy "Peter," "Julian Apostata" and "Leonardo da Vinci."

Friday, July 27

*Russians suffer great defeat; thousands surrender to enemy without fighting.*

For the last few days bad news from the southwestern front. Shame and despair! To-day the Provisional Government has finally declared that the death penalty for traitors has been introduced. If it only is not too late. Gray, heavy day. Felled three trees. I am beginning to pack my things and books quietly.

## Germany's Dream of Conquest

By James W. Gerard

*Former Ambassador to Germany*

TO ONE who has been in Germany and who returns to America there come retrospective thoughts on the useless, senseless cruelty of the ruling caste in that misdirected country.

The well being of the entire world has been put in danger; men who would much rather be at home lie in mud and filth, waiting to shoot at some fellow human being, similarly situated. Civilian populations have starved, and old men and women and children have been fiendishly slaughtered by Zeppelins and bombardments upon unfortified places.

Upon America falls a new white man's burden: America alone can finish the task which the other civilized nations have begun, and America can accomplish it only through the American soldier, rendered effective to the highest degree through the mobilizing forces of Liberty loans.

It is the autocracy which the civilized nations of the world must deal with, for the autocracy finds in the war its only

hope of continuing itself. There had long been in Germany dreams of a German conquest of the world, and it was because of this dream that the autocracy grew stronger and stronger. At the same time the autocracy felt that it would not reap the full advantage of its power, or even retain its place, if the country did not go to war.

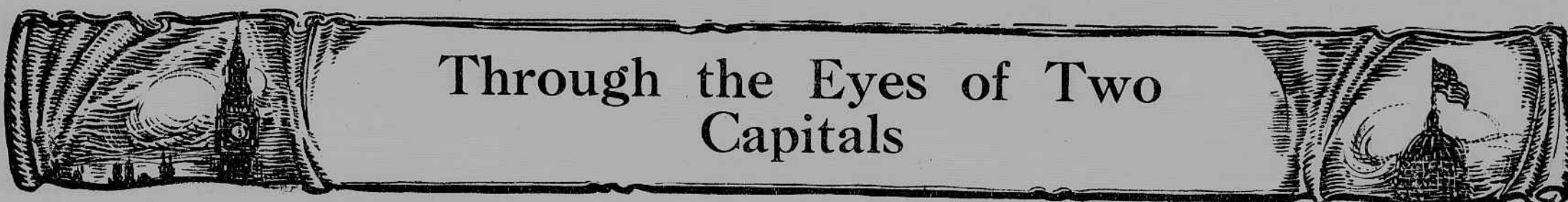
The ruling caste had entrenched itself as much as possible. The Junker class was finding many places for its sons and relatives. At the same time there were many merchants who were able to live far better than some classes of the military. These latter felt that, in war, they would gravitate toward the top.

This has come about. The Junker, with his lands worked by prisoners of war at the rate of six cents a day, with no increase in his taxes and able to sell his products for five or six times as much as before the war, is enjoying the present days of strife, while, from their retirement on their estates, a number of generals have emerged, to be surrounded by glistening staffs, and wield extreme power.

The ruling class has taught the people to believe that they are a race of supermen—that Germany will conquer the world. So long as there is the slightest semblance of victory for the German arms, the autocracy can maintain itself. But if Germany were decisively defeated and the people came to realize that it had been so utterly defeated, a new and better Germany would be a possibility. So the necessity of a decisive victory over Germany can hardly be appreciated.

Pan-Germans at times have given expression to their ideas of what the greater Germany should include. In their dream of world dominion they took the greater part of South America, much of Africa and Asia and the islands north of Australia. Holland and Belgium were to be a part of the empire, as well as the Baltic provinces and French colonies.

These are the purposes in the mind of the Prussian ruling caste at the present time. How abhorrent they are to the American need not be stated. Are we to allow even the expression of such ideals to go unchecked?



## Through the Eyes of Two Capitals

### London Reactions to the Peace Drive

With Only One Exception, the British Press Indorses President Wilson's Reply—The Inter-Allied Labor Conference—A Military Survey

By Arthur S. Draper

*(Special Cable to The Tribune)  
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LONDON, Sept. 21.

NOT since the Kaiser attempted to make peace in 1916 has there been a political development in the Central Powers comparable to Emperor Karl's plea for a conference of the belligerents. The first direct offer from one belligerent to the others gives this political manoeuvre a distinction unattained by previous overtures. Though President Wilson instantly declined in a note which will long be remembered as an innovation in diplomatic procedure, and Balfour failed to find in it basis for negotiation, the fact remains that the Austrians have taken a step which will affect profoundly the course of the war.

Perhaps the greatest difference will occur in the political relations of the Central Powers, but at the same time a change in the Allied attitude toward the enemy group is bound to result. With the exception of "The Manchester Guardian" and a few individuals, the press has publicly indorsed the President's reply. "The Guardian" thinks the President did exactly what Germany militarists desired. In Britain hardly a single element has voiced any sentiments from which Austria could gain encouragement. France and Italy are no whit more favorable. If Karl's offer accomplished nothing else, it succeeded in proving that the "peace at any price party" among the European Allies hadn't the courage to come out boldly and support immediate negotiations. That is a highly significant act at a time when America might naturally draw wrong conclusions from manifestations of unrest among the co-belligerents.

Another equally important development is the line taken by the British Liberal press. With a few minor exceptions, the Liberal newspapers urge the drafting of a considered reply, which would tend to widen the breach and avoid creating the impression among the masses of the enemy countries that the Allies were determined to crush and strangle them.

In the development of this argument they quote utterances of Wilson, Lloyd George and General Smuts, in which they made a distinction between the people and their rulers.

It is the general feeling that Karl was honest in his desire for peace, and that the German militarists opposed the move, but agreed to it because they knew it would

fail, and that as a consequence Karl would become even more dependent upon them. Von Payer wrecked Karl's operation before it was fairly launched. The German militarists are a hardy lot, and they are far from admitting defeat.

No peace move was ever made at a more inopportune moment. Had Karl waited until the close of the campaigning season, when the armies had gone into their winter quarters, and the minds of the people were no longer concentrated on the battlefield, he might have received more encouragement from the Germans and made a greater impression on the Allied countries.

With Foch hitting here and there without a break in his string of successes, the Allied hopes are running high, while the German expectations are correspondingly low. But the rule by which German militarists and soldiers go is: "Don't quit until you are beaten or the opponents admit their inability to reach a decision." German militarists have been mauled and battered, but they are still a strong foe, proud, arrogant and bitter, fighting for their existence as rulers of the Fatherland.

In the German offer to restore Belgian neutrality, in the suggestion for mutual evacuation of Northwest Russia, there is the hand of the militarists hoping to gain time to recuperate and reorganize for further fighting. Karl will have to pay the price—Austrian troops will move westward in greater numbers, and the hungry, war-weary peoples of the Dual Monarchy will have to undergo further sacrifices and suffering because their German masters are unprepared to admit defeat. Germany is going to gamble in a big way.

Toward the Bolsheviks the Germans are showing every consideration, hoping to enlist help in that quarter and embarrass the Entente. Incidentally, by releasing Litvinoff, the Bolshevik representative here, the British have adopted a course which it is hoped will improve the position of the Britons in Russia. Germany has abandoned the scheme of restoring a monarchy to Russia, and I learn the monarchists here have received little encouragement to their plan for setting up a constitutional monarchy. Any monarchy in Russia would be a German orientation.

In a week crowded with political manoeuvres, the Inter-Allied Labor Conference has become a secondary matter, though it is entitled to the greatest consideration. It has served an excellent purpose, in that the labor leaders have a better understanding of each other. With Ramsay MacDonald sitting at a committee meeting with American delegates, with Jean Longuet and Samuel Gompers speaking from the same platform, and with Sidney Webb conferring with Albert Thomas, a stronger labor alliance is bound to result.

Gompers learned that the European labor

movement is somewhat different from the one he directs, while the Entente Socialists discovered that the president of the A. F. of L., despite his years, is considerable of a fighter.

Britain is in the midst of a tremendous social upheaval, and the unrest during the week would give cause for the greatest alarm, unless it is clearly understood that the workers believe they are fighting two battles. First, against Germany, and second, against existing labor conditions. It is without the province of these dispatches to comment on the government's attitude toward this momentous problem, but it is possible to say that the Premier has no heavier task.

A widespread strike of cotton spinners and a threat of railway men are events of international importance. Numerous other strikes, such as that of the Liverpool coal passers, are bound to affect the prosecution of the war. The high cost of living is largely responsible for the unrest, and whether the crisis has passed it is difficult to say.

Militarily, the developments are on the same great scale as political manoeuvres, though hardly so dramatic. Foremost is Pershing's push. If the Entente hasn't displayed sufficient emotion over the splendid achievements of the American army, it is not because the Allied peoples have failed to recognize and appreciate the skill of the plan with which the operation was carried out. It is the highest compliment to the Americans to say that the St. Mihiel victory was just what the British and French had expected. Even the most war-weary Europeans felt a thrill when they read that the Metz guns had come into action.

Foch has given a fine instance of his persistence in the way in which he has kept Mangin's army hammering at the German defences covering the Chemin des Dames. Here is a case where he has insisted heavily with the expectation of reaping a big reward. Unlike the Somme operations, where he was satisfied with harassing the enemy and at once began to retreat, Foch kept General Mangin slugging away against powerful defences of the foe. Mangin's blows were like those of a wood-chopper who has cut all the way through the tree, which is still standing, but which a few more blows will send toppling down.

Aside from the Lorraine withdrawal, the past week has seen few material changes in position, but ways have been paved for big developments, and German critics think the Verdun region will be the scene of a new battle. Approximately six weeks of good fighting weather remain. After October, Flanders is generally so water-soaked that extensive operations are impossible, while the Somme country is also difficult fighting country in the fall. The weather is less likely to influence the course of events on the Aisne Heights than elsewhere on the northern half of the Western front.

The Franco-Serbian offensive is a small affair, compared with the Western battles, but it has great political possibilities. After months of inactivity the Allied success in this theatre is bound to have a happy effect on Entente fortunes, and it is calculated to depress Bulgarian masses, who are ripe for a revolution. A distant objective might be Uskub, the key to the Balkans, which cannot be reached through the narrow Vardar Valley, but might be taken if the hills were captured.

Military developments are likely to overshadow political events next week.

### Washington Also Discusses Austria's Bid

Even Before the President's Unequivocal Reply Was Made Public, Congress Stood Solid for Reprisal—The \$8,000,000,000 Revenue Bill

By Carter Field

*(Special Dispatch to The Tribune)  
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WASHINGTON, September 21. THE Austrian peace move and its rejection by President Wilson within a few minutes after its formal submission were by far the most important happenings in Washington this week. They resulted in speeches in the Senate by the Republican leader, Mr. Lodge, and in the House by the ranking Republican member of the Military Affairs Committee, Mr. Kahn, of California, denouncing the peace proposal and insisting upon "unconditional surrender by the Germans."

More important than the speeches, perhaps, was the general tenor of the cloak-room gossip. Even those Senators and Representatives who voted against the entry of the United States into the war and who have opposed many of the war measures took a firm stand against the Allies being diverted from their task of defeating Germany in the field by any peace discussion at this time.

Such Senators as Norris, of Nebraska, Republican, and Kirby, of Arkansas, Democrat, who were included in the President's "twelve," talked about discussing peace when the Allied armies had reached Berlin, while Meyer London referred scornfully to the Brest-Litovsk treaty as illustrating the futility of accepting Germany's word at a peace table.

A careful canvass of both houses failed to disclose a single member who was in favor of accepting Austria's offer, even before the President's flat rejection was known. Allied diplomats were particularly pleased that the President's reply was given so quickly, as they believed that one of the purposes of Germany in making this peace proposal was to start a discussion of peace in Allied countries, which would be injurious to war efficiency. They pointed to the attitude of the Italians just before their terrible defeat. So generally had the belief that peace was coming gotten through the Italian ranks at that time, it was said, that there was a feeling that no particular military effort or sacrifice was of any value.

It is difficult to exaggerate the interest and disapproval all through Congress and official Washington of the only dissenting voice—that of "The New York Times." The interest centres in the reasons and motives which inspired "The Times" to advocate accepting Austria's offer. No one expressed doubt of the loyalty of "The Times," but there were many speculations as to just why it, alone of the important newspapers of the country, took this view. Expressions on the Austrian note disclosed a more united front with a view to pushing the war through to its "bitter end" than has anything since this country entered the war. Congress had a rude shock on the revenue

proposition this week, when General March, Chief of Staff, told the House Appropriations Committee that the army would require an additional appropriation of seven billion dollars, much of which would be spent before the end of the fiscal year. Congress had expected a request for a much smaller sum in addition to the army appropriations already made for the fiscal year, and had forecast, further, that most of the additional appropriations asked would be merely authorization, and that the actual money need not be turned over to the War Department until after July 1 next.

Evidencing the speed with which Class 1 men who registered last week are to be inducted into the service, Provost Marshal General Crowder announced that the questionnaires for the men from nineteen to twenty and thirty-two to thirty-six would be mailed this week.

The sub-committee which investigated the German-American Alliance is preparing to look into the financing of newspapers in the interests of the brewers and German propaganda as the result of A. Mitchell Palmer's disclosures that Arthur Brisbane, Hearst's editorial writer, had bought "The Washington Times" with money supplied by German-American brewers.

The House devoted five days of the week to the \$8,000,000,000 revenue bill, which it adopted Friday afternoon by unanimous vote, after having had it continually under consideration since September 8. In its final form the bill varied only slightly from the form in which the Ways and Means Committee reported it. Most of the changes made were of a textual or verbally corrective nature. Many amendments were proposed and the contests over some of them were spirited, but none of the defeated amendments was in conflict with the general principles of the bill, which were scarcely attacked.

Representative J. Hampton Moore, of Pennsylvania, fought hard and persistently to obtain incorporation of a provision for a joint Congressional committee on war expenditures, but finally failed to get even a vote, being foiled by the point of order that his proposal was not germane. He fared no better with his attempt to tax raw cotton at \$3 a bale.

All the amendments that finally prevailed were such as originated with the Ways and Means Committee or were sanctioned by it. Most of these were unimportant, but one at least is worthy of mention. As originally reported, the bill permitted a taxpayer, in figuring deductions, to take out only such interest payments as were in excess of those received from tax-free securities. It was pointed out that this amounted to taxing Liberty bonds, which are not subject to the normal taxes. An amendment was adopted permitting the deduction of all interest payments.